

Clubhouse plans are shelved

WYCOMBE Wanderers have temporarily shelved plans to build a big new clubhouse next to their Loakes Park ground.

This was made quite clear by chairman Mr Reg Williams at the club's annual meeting held at the ground on Thursday evening.

Mr Williams told members that at present the club did

not have the finances to pay for such a scheme, which would have been built on part of the existing training pitch.

"We run a football team and not a social club," he said. "The clubhouse is secondary to the team. That is what we are here for — to produce a football team for the town."

Asked why the club had

not managed to attract a major sponsor to help with the club's finances, Mr Williams said that had been a lack of response within the town.

Hopeful

"Our efforts have fallen on stony ground. Every firm in Wycombe has been contacted and no one at all is in-

terested. We can get people to sponsor boards round the ground but the main sponsor is a problem," he said.

Vice-chairman Mr Brian Lee was more hopeful of obtaining a backer. "We are after large sponsorship, something between £1,000 and £2,000 per year. We think we have got a sponsor for next season."

Just how much Wanderers rely on the Blues Development Fund — the lottery — was made quite clear by the accounts. The Fund brought nearly £40,000 into the club while the overall surplus for the season was just over £10,000.

The formation of the club into a limited liability company which was expected to have been completed early in the year, still has not gone through all the necessary procedures.

In his annual report secretary Mr John Goldsworthy says, "It has taken a long time but it has to be accepted that it is not a straightforward matter and there is a great responsibility on the solicitors to ensure that all legal requirements are met.

Session

Mr Williams said that manager Mike Keen had sent his apologies for not attending because of the first training session of the season.

But Mr Keen has invited all club members to meet him and watch his training methods at a special session at Loakes Park on the evening of Thursday August 7.

OFFICERS ELECTED

President — M. E. Seymour, chairman — R. H. Williams, secretary J. Goldsworthy, treasurer G. B. Cox, vice-chairman B. R. Lee, match sec W. G. V. Cleere, general committee — C. Avery, R. Hart, R. Holt, G. Roberts, P. Swinburn, G. Plested, G. Sutton, K. Lacey, manager M. Keen; commercial manager M. Phillips.

HOLIFIELD BACK IN TRAINING

MICK Holifield, the Wycombe Wanderers mid-field player who missed most of last season with a niggling groin injury, is back in training.

Holifield, a member of the Blues successful side in the early seventies, came through Thursday's first pre-season training session at Bisham Abbey without undue alarm and hopes to be playing again next season.

After the intensive session which included a practice match Holifield said, "I got a slight niggle but nothing serious. I'll just have to see if I suffer any reaction."

Yesterday (Monday) Holifield was seeing the sports injury specialist Dr John Williams from

Farnham Park, whom, he hopes, will give the all clear to play again.

Holifield's injury caused by wear and tear on a particular joint, occurred last November and it was thought in some circles that he might not play top level non-league football again.

Fans will be keeping their fingers crossed that he will play again, for his creative play and goal scoring knack was certainly missed midway through last season.

Club captain Paul Birdseye, who missed the end of last season with a similar injury, was also training and his only worry appeared to be a bruised toe.

Manager Mike Keen conducted a businesslike session and taking part were two young players who could become a part of the Loakes Park scene this coming season.

One of them was Elvis Jack, a young coloured striker from High Wycombe, who has been playing at Reading. Jack, aged 17, is a nippy forward who likes to take on defences.

The other was Russell Ashenden, a mid-field player who played a number of games for Northampton Town while Mike Keen was manager there.

Signings

Mr Keen confirmed that he would probably make a few signings in the next few days. With Gary Toll and Terry Scott missing the start and perhaps all of the season, his main task must be to acquire a goalscoring forward.

One welcome face back with the Blues was talented defender Bob Davies, who gave up playing at the end of 1978/79 because he was not enjoying his football. He looked happy enough on Thursday.

Several local youngsters joined in the session. They could be candidates for the Reserve team which will play in the Suburban League next season. Reserve manager John Maskell was not present as he was away on holiday.